

alkali metal and alkaline earth metal salts, alkyl esters, amides, sorbitan esters, glycerol esters or polyglycerol esters,

- (2) mono- or polyunsaturated aliphatic C<sub>8</sub>-C<sub>30</sub>-amines,
- (3) mono- or polyunsaturated C<sub>8</sub>-C<sub>30</sub>-alcohols as well as their esters with saturated C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-monocarboxylic acids,
- (4) [C<sub>8</sub>-C<sub>30</sub>-alkyl] C<sub>10</sub>-C<sub>25</sub>-alkyl vinyl ethers [which may contain up to 25 alkylene oxide units incorporated], and
- (5) terminal or internal C<sub>16</sub>-C<sub>30</sub>-alkenes,

- B  
amt
- C) 0 - 49.9% by weight of other copolymerizable monomers and
  - D) 0 - 10% by weight of one or more compounds with at least two olefinically unsaturated groups in the molecule as crosslinkers [,

are used as thickeners or dispersants].

11. (amended) A [process] composition as [claimed] defined in claim 10, wherein the copolymers [are used which] are [obtainable] obtained by free-radical polymerization of

- A) 75 - 99.45% by weight of carboxylic acid component A,
- B) 0.5 - 24.95% by weight of the long-chain compounds with isolated C-C multiple bonds B,
- C) 0 - 24.45% by weight of other copolymerizable monomers and
- D) 0.05 - 5% by weight of the crosslinker component D.

12. (amended) A [process] composition as [claimed] defined in claim 10, wherein the copolymers [are used which] have been prepared using acrylic acid, methacrylic acid or maleic anhydride as component A.

13. (amended) A [process] composition as [claimed] defined in claim 10, wherein the copolymers [are used which] have been prepared using as component B one or more long-chain compounds with isolated olefinic double bonds selected from the group [comprising]

consisting of

- B1  
amt
- (1) mono- to tetraunsaturated C<sub>14</sub>-C<sub>24</sub>-monocarboxylic acids as well as their alkali metal and alkaline earth metal salts, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl esters, glycerol esters or polyglycerol esters,
  - (2) mono- to tetraunsaturated aliphatic primary C<sub>14</sub>-C<sub>24</sub>-amines,
  - (3) mono- to tetraunsaturated primary C<sub>14</sub>-C<sub>24</sub>-alcohols as well as their esters with saturated C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-monocarboxylic acids,
  - (4) C<sub>10</sub>-C<sub>25</sub>-alkyl vinyl ethers [which may contain up to 10 alkylene oxide units incorporated], and
  - (5) terminal C<sub>16</sub>-C<sub>24</sub>-alkenes.
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Claim 14, line 1, delete "process" and substitute  
composition--; delete "claimed" and substitute --defined--.

Claim 15, line 1, delete "obtainable" and substitute --  
obtained--; line 19, delete "C<sub>8</sub>-C<sub>30</sub>-" and substitute --C<sub>10</sub>-C<sub>25</sub>--;  
lines 19 and 20, delete "which may contain up to 25 alkylene oxide  
units incorporated".

Cancel claim 16.

REMARKS

Claims 10-14 have been amended. They now cover a composition containing a copolymer as defined in claim 15. Claim 16 has been canceled.

It is believed that the claims now fully satisfy the requirements of 35 USC § 101.

The examiner has rejected claim 10 under 35 USC § 103 as being unpatentable over Fock et al. It is urged that this rejection be favorably reconsidered.

Fock et al. disclose copolymers of three components, i.e.

- ♦ acrylic or methacrylic acid
- ♦ a non-ionized vinyl monomer